



WASHINGTON STATE
Board of Health
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DATE: January 9, 2013

TO: Washington State Board of Health Members

FROM: John Austin, Chair

SUBJECT: MEDICAID EXPANSION UPDATE

Background and Summary:

For many years, the Board has been concerned about the lack of access to care for Washington state residents, and has included access to care as an ongoing priority area in its strategic plans. On March 23, 2010, President Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. This act was primarily focused on decreasing the number of uninsured Americans and reducing health care costs.

The Act grants individual states the option to expand Medicaid eligibility to include individuals with income up to 133% of the federal poverty line, including adults without dependent children. Effective January 1, 2014, this change will increase the number of adults who have access to insurance and health care services in Washington.

Jenny Hamilton, Project Manager, for the Washington State Health Care Authority is here to share with the Board her agency's work on the Medicaid expansion. She will describe the state's efforts to implement this part of health care reform by January 2014, some of its challenges, and what it means for Washington residents.

Recommended Board Action:

None.

Staff Contact:

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